

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE C-12

WASHINGTON POST  
16 April 1984

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## Swedes, Soviets In Secret War For High-Tech

The KGB and Swedish counter-intelligence are engaged in a secret war over western high-technology items. The Soviets keep trying to steal them, using Sweden as a transit point.

The major battlefield in this underground war is Goteborg, an industrial center and seaport on Sweden's west coast—equally handy to Soviet-bloc countries and western sources of high-tech equipment.

Possibly in an effort to keep the Swedes' feet to the fire, the U.S. government this month filed criminal charges against a Swedish company for the 1978 sale to the Soviets of a radar system containing U.S. parts. It was the first charge of U.S. export-law violation filed against a foreign company. In this case the firm, Datasaab, was half-owned by the Swedish government at the time.

Interestingly, Sweden—determined to maintain its 170-year-old tradition of neutrality—has been far better about preventing illegal high-tech diversions to the Soviets than perhaps half a dozen other countries. The 1978 sale was something of an aberration for the Swedes.

CIA and State Department sources have given my associates Dale Van Atta and Michael Binstein top-secret details of increased Swedish efforts to foil the KGB's high-tech thieves.

The sources pointed out that the 1978 radar sale to the Soviets by Datasaab was a serious matter. The TERCAS radar—Terminal and End Route Control System—was supposedly for civilian use at the Moscow airport. But U.S. intelligence says it believes the Soviets have now integrated it into their military defense network to track incoming bombers and fighters.

But the sources emphasized that Sweden, unlike such neutral countries as Austria and Switzerland, has shown a clear inclination to keep sensitive military technology out of Soviet hands. Last fall, for example, Sweden seized seven containers of U.S. computer equipment on their way to Leningrad and returned them to the American manufacturer.

And in January, the Swedes delivered a confidential aide-memoire to the State Department that read: "The Swedish government has declared its determination not to let Swedish territory become a transitional area for illegally obtained restricted technology."

As far as the CIA has been able to determine, Sweden has not contributed significantly to the Warsaw Pact nations' military capability.

The Soviet bloc has been able to buy laser range-finders and fire-control systems from Sweden, but not some of the sophisticated air-defense radar and anti-aircraft guns they want.

One yardstick of the Swedes' determination is the number of Soviet spies they've kicked out—12 in little over a year. In fact, the last Soviet consul in Goteborg was sent packing for espionage activities, as was the Goteborg-based representative of the Soviet register of shipping.

Swedish intelligence is keeping a close watch on Soviet diplomats, who are believed to include about a dozen KGB agents, and possibly twice that number. The Swedes believe that these agents' primary mission is industrial espionage.

This is especially true, the Swedes feel, of the Soviet consular staff in Goteborg. Of the nearly 30 Soviets attached to the consulate, several have been classified by the Swedes as suspected KGB agents specializing in science and technology.

The Soviets have two main targets in Goteborg. L.M. Ericsson, the giant electronics firm that took over Datasaab, and Saab Scania, which makes Sweden's combat aircraft and has a marine electronics division in Goteborg. Among the advanced naval equipment the Soviets lust after is Saab Scania's automatic system for piloting ships without personnel on the bridge.